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Jibba Jabber

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VERSUS:

In the battle between terrorist kingpin Osama bin Laden and joke staple Yo' Mama, who will come out on top?



OSAMA

YO' MAMA

ACCESSORIES

M-16 and a turban.

Is so hairy, she's got an afro with a chinstrap.

Winner: Yo' Mama. Never side against a woman with a chinstrap of hair.

HAIR

Looks like a member of a ZZ Top cover band.

Is so hairy, she's got dreadlocks on her back.

Winner: Osama. ZZ Top rocks, dude!

FAVORITE HANGOUT

An unknown bunker miles beneath some desert.

Is so fat, she's got her own zip code.

Winner: Yo' Mama. Ethos just moved out of a bunker. We're not moving back.

FINANCIAL SOLVENCY

Heir to a multi-million dollar construction fortune.

Is so poor, her TV has got two channels, on and off.

Winner: Osama. Hey, it must be the money!

SIZE

Kate Moss-esque.

Is so fat, she beeps when she backs up.

Winner: Yo' Mama. Apparently no one told Osama the waif look is out.

PERSONAL HYGEINE

There were three showers in Afghanistan. Then the U.S. Embassy closed.

Is so stank, she made Right Guard turn left and Speed Stick slow down.

Winner: Yo' Mama. At least she made an attempt.

NAGGING WORRIES

He has more than a million soldiers with guns looking for him. What do you think?

Is so fat, she won't bend over on the street because she'll get arrested for selling crack.

Winner: Osama. We'd be worried, too.

OVERALL WINNER

Yo' Mama, 4-3. She may be one fat, stupid, ugly, hairy, stank broad, but come on, like we were going to let Osama win.

Top 5 Talkers

1 Terrorism

We wake up one morning, and the world is suddenly one screwed-up place to live. The eyes and hearts of most of the world turned to America, and we came together for a bittersweet display of solidarity. But there are a billion questions on our minds these days and all we know is this: There will be an American flag flying behind the person with the answers.

2 Budget cuts, tuition hikes

The belt tightening is over. It's time to take off your pants and sell them to the consignment store. How does it make sense for students to pay 15 percent more for a service that will reduce in quality?

3 Katharine Robb

So it isn't easy to kidnap someone at gunpoint in front of Gilman between class periods without anyone seeing it? No way! Thank you so much for scaring females, infuriating blacks and discrediting real rape victims. Mom is so proud.

4 Tasers for DPS

I mean really, if we can trust the Boone Police with guns, I think we can do the same with DPS officers. Give them guns, stun guns, whatever they want. Just let them do their jobs.

5 Phillip Morris

It turns out big tobacco was behind the lawsuits filed by Ames businesses against the city's partial smoking ban. Those of us who argued for our privilege to smoke by falling back on our right to personal freedom have been exposed for the hypocrites we really are. Bummer.

Daily Wisdom

"We shouldn't feel bad about feeling good, or even wanting to feel good. We need to get past the bad, but still remember what happened, and not forget," wrote *Daily* columnist Blaine Moyle on how to cope with the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The Interview:



Carmen CERRA

Interview by
David Roepke

The wicked pen wielded by Carmen Cerra has been a fixture on the Iowa State University campus since June 1997, when he began drawing *Poison Ink* for the *Iowa State Daily*. Four years later, *Ethos* catches up with Cerra, senior in pre-journalism and mass communication, as he eats his turkey sandwich with shredded American cheese (the overpowering flavor of a whole slice of cheese dominates a sandwich, he says). He may have the mind of a madman, but when you get to know him, you realize he's a sweet man who is good with children and has a mind of a madman.

Ethos: What's your dream job?

Carmen Cerra: *Washington Post* cartoonist. The other would be working for the State Department drawing and illustrating those little propaganda leaflets they drop behind enemy lines. I think that would be a hoot.

E: What do you think about all the students who have never met you and think you're a woman?

CC: I actually use that to my advantage. Some guys will think, "That Carmen, she don't know nothing. We're going to have kick her ass." Good, go kick her ass. At least it's not mine. I use it against telemarketers, too. They go, "Is Carmen Cerra here?" and I say, "No, she's not here." It has its advantages.

E: What's the sickest thing you've ever thought or said?

CC: Man, I don't know if I can say any of those things. (pause) There's all sorts of things I've thought about doing to bin Laden that are pretty sick, but that would be more of a relative thing. Being a cartoonist, I think a lot of sick thoughts. You basically whittle them down to what's publishable.



photos by Eric Hines

Entertainment Pick:

Pete Yorn

musicforthemorningafter

In a world stuck on bubble-gum pop and interchangeable rap-rock acts, Pete Yorn champions the return of the mesmerizing singer-songwriter on his major label debut, "musicforthemorningafter." Yorn's humble hypnotic voice will have you singing "Murray" while racing 90 mph down the interstate in your Celebrity with the Iowa Highway Patrol in pursuit. The soft strumming on "Lose You" and "Just Another" will leave you pining for a love that couldn't be; the wailing guitars on "Black" and "For Nancy" will have you downing shots and dancing on the bar all night long. It's a euphoric thrill ride of emotions compacted on a soundtrack for a life filled with joy, sorrow, loss and love.

-Justin Kendall

E: Mainstream sick thoughts?

CC: Yeah, mainstream sick thoughts. Death to terrorists. Hack their nuts off.

E: Who has been your favorite target over the years?

CC: Oh, [former ISU President Martin] Jischke, of course. I mean that guy just looks like Hitler. I'll give you this. He was honest. At least he was to me. I shadowed him a couple years ago on the last day of the semester, and I asked him about Morrill Hall. I said, "How much money is it going to take?" and he said, "\$8 million." I said, "Donors seem to give that much every day, why doesn't a donor give money to save Morrill Hall?" And he flat out said, "It's because it's already named." So I got a little bit more respect for him after that.

E: Was he a fan of your cartoons?

CC: He never mentioned the cartoons to me. He said, "Carmen, you got a nice art there," but that's about it. John McCarroll, his little PR lackey, would call whoever the editor-in-chief was if there was a column they didn't like, and he would tell her, but no one ever confronted me about it.

HUH?

WOI drops Bill Maher for being *Politically Incorrect*?

Clear Channel *suggests* a list of 150 songs it would rather not be played. A *suggested* ban?

The Iowa-Iowa State football game is on and then it's off. It shouldn't have been a tough decision since the NFL canceled play for the weekend.

The parking space for the Perkins Employee of the Month is always empty. Do you get a month off work for winning, too?

A fenced-off sidewalk needs a sign stating, "Sidewalk closed." Thank God no one slammed into it while walking.

Big-money donors get shout-outs at football games. Students get free T-shirts ... only if we score.

Jack Trice Stadium's video screen appears to be a 1980s Atari video game. And we're a University of Science and Technology?

E: If you could be anyone, past, present or future, who would it be?

CC: Hell, I'll be Ghandi. He's not violent, you can't argue with that. He was against oppression, you can't argue with that. But he was, at least as far as I can tell, completely, 100 percent behind his ideals. He never raised his fist in anger and all that. He was a man of integrity. Anyone who had integrity, I'd like to be. And I think I have that now. Part of human nature is to evolve as you grow, so it's hard to maintain integrity when your mind changes about things.

E: What's your philosophy on life?

CC: To me, it's just to live. I enjoy everything. Anything that's really big I try to treat lightly and trivial things I sometimes try to treat as they're something bigger. Treat everything with respect, though, that's for sure. That's kind of ironic coming out of the mouth of a cartoonist, but one thing I can honestly tell you is I hate no one. Even if I was killed or murdered, I wouldn't want the death penalty for them. I wouldn't hate them. It's just the way things go. Even Jischke. I don't hate Jischke. Bin Laden's pushing it.